

In reply address not the signer of this letter, but Bureau of Navigation, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

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NAV-20

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

2 January 1925.

BUREAU OF NAVIGATION NEWS BULLETIN NO. 58.

The Bureau requests that this Bulletin be given free circulation among officers and that items of interest be published to the Enlisted Personnel. This bulletin is NOT confidential and may be destroyed at the discretion of the Commanding Officer. Constructive suggestions for improvement will be appreciated.

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ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The following circular letter published by the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery is quoted for the information of officers.

"Subject: Annual Physical Examination.

Reference: General Order No. 134.

1. In order that the annual physical examination shall conserve as well as eliminate defective officer personnel it is directed that this examination shall be conducted most thoroughly. If a defect of importance is discovered, the officer undergoing examination shall be requested to fill out the questionnaire of personal hygiene and medical history which shall be considered confidential. When a defect is found it shall be carefully investigated to be certain that it is not a functional or temporary disability. If possible a few days observation at a Naval Hospital should be given doubtful cases. No entry shall be made in the health record or on Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Form 125111 (63) July, 1924, unless the defect has been established. The Board shall decide if the defect can be remedied by operation or treatment and if it will disqualify the officer from future service. This opinion will be definitely expressed both in the health record and on the report of physical examination with due consideration as to the length of service and probable future duties required. Attention is invited to the fact that certain defects in height, weight and vision once waived on appointment and which appear on the descriptive list should be noted together with notation of waiver on Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Form 125111 (63) July, 1924.

2. The official test for color perception is the Holmgren skeins or Jennings' self recording test, except in the case of candidates for midshipmen who are required to pass the Stilling's

test and Edridge-Green lamp. Defective vision corrected by glasses without evidence of organic disease of the eye shall be noted. Defective hearing should be tested on several successive days by whispered and spoken voice as well as by watch and acoumeter. When available a Navy specialist shall be asked to render an opinion as to the degree and permanency of the defect. Special study shall be made to determine if an albuminuria is temporary or if renal disease exists. A high blood pressure shall be investigated on several successive days to ascertain if it is constant. A cardiac murmur shall be studied to be sure it is not functional. The constancy of the murmur accompanied with cardiac enlargement and cardio-vascular disturbance is of importance.

3. The Board shall review the questionnaire submitted by the officer and he shall be informed if any defect is found serious enough to be noted in his record. If it is believed that treatment by change in personal hygiene will be helpful, the officer should be advised to consult his medical officer. Every effort should be made to ACCENTUATE this annual physical examination as one of CONSERVATION OF OFFICER PERSONNEL rather than to emphasize the elimination factor. As the final opinion of the Board as to FITNESS FOR SERVICE will have great weight with the Bureau, attention is especially invited to the consideration of the economic value of every officer to the government as well as to the loss of highly trained personnel when officers are retired. Adverse reports as to physical fitness and health are considered by selection Boards and should not be entered in the health record unless believed to be certain."

NAVAL REGISTERS, 1925.

The necessity for economy in expenditures for printing official publications has resulted in a reduction of the authorized number of U. S. Naval Registers from 13,500, as in previous years, to 5,000 for 1925. This will necessitate a marked reduction in the number that can be supplied to each unit of the naval establishment afloat and ashore, but the Bureau expects to be able to provide a sufficient number to make one available for reference to every officer of the active list on duty.

EDUCATIONAL COURSES.

The Bureau of Navigation has received a letter from Lt. Comdr. J. D. Smith, Educational Officer, 11th Naval District, commenting on the recognized importance of educational training in building up an efficient

Navy, and the opportunity, not always recognized, which is offered by the training material now available in the Navy Education Study Courses. This officer suggests as a means of bringing about a more extensive use of these courses a more strongly centralized educational organization, with an educational office on each Coast where the enrollment and other records of enlisted men pursuing courses would be kept. He also suggests a closer supervision by this office of the work aboard ships, and that the Certificate of Attainments be issued by this office rather than by the Commanding Officers of men successfully completing courses.

The Bureau concurs with the endorsement of the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet, that such a centralization would require too large a clerical overhead, that it would not be practicable for a mobile force, and that it would be in effect an attempt to force an educational system upon the service. For this third reason, if for no other, the Bureau does not favor such a centralized organization.

The Bureau also agrees with the Commander-in-Chief's favorable endorsement of the following suggestions made by Lt. Comdr. Smith: (a) that greater emphasis should be given by all officers to the training of enlisted men; (b) that a more definite place in the ship's routine should be given to educational training; (c) that a more extensive use of the Bureau's courses should be made, not only because this will help to standardize training afloat but will demand far less effort and time on the part of officers, who are necessarily responsible for training the men under them.

A comparison of the Bureau's announcement of Courses in 1920 (the first year of the Navy Education - Study Courses), 1922 and 1924 shows very definitely the Bureau's conception of the purpose of this system. In the 1920 Announcement, 35 courses were listed as available. All of these were bought from schools and colleges outside the Navy. Sixteen of the courses were definite Trade Courses and 19 were courses on general subjects, such as Arithmetic, Grammar and Writing.

The 1922 Announcement listed 54 courses, of which 16 had been written in the Naval Service or by outside educators for the service. The number of Trade Courses had increased to 30 and the number of general courses to 24.

The 1924 Announcement, recently sent out to all the service, announces 90 courses. 55 of these courses have been written in the Naval Service or prepared especially for the Navy by civilian educators. The number of Trade Courses has increased to 67, while the number of general courses is only 23. Of the 90 courses, 31 are Rating Courses, each course covering the requirements for a specific rating.

This comparison shows very clearly the Bureau's fundamental program in the Navy Education - Study Courses. Certain general subjects, such as Mathematics and English, will always be necessary as a part of the system, because there will always be individual enlisted men who are deficient in their knowledge of these common branches, and who must improve in these before they can advance, but the larger mission of the system is to develop courses which bear directly on the trades found in the Navy and which place in the hands of the enlisted men the information requisite for their advancement to specific rating.

A logical development from the Rating Course will be the requirement that all candidates for ratings be required to complete successfully the respective courses for their rates. While the Bureau has not as yet directed that this be done, many ships are making this requirement in all cases where such Rating Courses are available.

The Bureau assumes that the individuals most interested in training, and therefore in training helps, are the commissioned officers of the Navy, since it is imperative that they train the enlisted men under them to perform efficiently the duties required by their various ratings. The Navy Education - Study Courses make available to officers the educational aids which will reduce the labor of such personnel training to the minimum, while attaining a maximum efficiency by placing in the hands of the enlisted men the required information in a form easily mastered by them. The Bureau is convinced that all Commanding Officer, heads of departments, and division officers, will make a much larger use of these courses after an unprejudiced examination of the Bureau's Announcement and of the Courses which bear directly on the work under their supervision.

COAST GUARD ENLISTMENT ALLOWANCE.

The Comptroller General of the United States, in rendering a decision relative to a claim of an enlisted man in the Coast Guard for enlistment allowance based on service in an extension of a Navy enlistment, ruled, in his Decision of December 15, 1924 (A-6549), that

"an enlistment in the Coast Guard following honorable discharge from an enlistment in the Navy does not entitle a man to enlistment allowance."

MESSMEN AT SHORE STATIONS.

The question has been presented to the Bureau for decision as to whether non-rated men detailed as messmen at radio stations where incomplete messing facilities are maintained are entitled to the extra compensation of

\$5.00 per month as messmen. Even though members of the mess, including the messman himself, may be receiving allowances in lieu of subsistence in kind, if the mess requires the services of a messman and one is properly detailed and actually performs the duties, he is entitled to the extra pay.

SPECIAL ORDER DISCHARGES.

The Bureau has recently adopted the policy of allowing a delay of not more than 30 days in the execution of special order discharges directed by the Bureau in cases of men on board the smaller vessels of the Fleet. This length of time is usually sufficient to obtain reliefs when such action is necessary.

HYDROGRAPHIC NEWS.

It is requested that as far as circumstances permit, vessels make observations of the eclipse of the moon, February 8-9, 1925, in accordance with the instructions contained on the reverse side of the Pilot Charts of the North Pacific and Indian Oceans for February. Submit results promptly to the Hydrographic Office direct.

The 1925 edition of the American Practical Navigator, Bowditch, has been printed and is now ready for distribution and sale by the Hydrographic Office.

The 1925 edition has been brought into conformity with the American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac for the year 1925, and in which, in the tabulation of the ephemerides of the celestial bodies, the hours of the day are counted from midnight to midnight of the civil day instead of from noon to noon of the astronomical day, as was done in the volumes before 1925, and the time is designated civil time instead of mean time.

Besides the recasting of the chapters on nautical astronomy thus occasioned, the geophysical chapters relating to tides, currents, winds, and storm have also been revised.

The price of the 1925 edition will be \$2.25 instead of \$1.80 as heretofore. Copies may be obtained from the Hydrographic Office direct or from any of its agents.

The Hydrographic Office desires to collect attractive photographs showing details of navigation, such as instruments and devices in use (sextant, sonic depth finder, sounding machine, hand lead, steering, patent log, towing spar, anchor gear, whistle, signal flags, boats - hoisting - lowering - coming alongside) heavy weather, derelicts, use of oil, lookout, life buoy watch, use of life buoy, telescope, semaphore, survey activities.

It is requested that films be sent in, but if this is impracticable, a good print will suffice.

MOTION PICTURES.

The Bureau has purchased the following feature motion pictures for distribution to the Naval Service:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Star.</u>
Oh, Doctor	Reginald Denny
The Tornado	House Peters.
The Silent Accuser	Eleanor Boardman
The Bandolero	Pedro de Cordoba
The Snob	John Gilbert
He Who Gets Slapped	Lon Chaney
Classmates	Richard Barthelmess.

NAVAL RESERVE ACTIVITIES.

The House of Representatives on 10 December 1924 passed the Bill H.R. 9634, providing for the creation, organization, administration and maintenance of a Naval Reserve and a Marine Corps Reserve. This is the same bill which has been recommended by the Naval Reserve Force and the Navy Department and which they have been endeavoring to have enacted for the past three years. It is in the same form as recommended except that the House eliminated the provision for retirement for injury received in active duty or training duty, and inserted a provision giving members injured while performing such service the benefits of the compensation law of civil employees of the United States.

The House also passed the Omnibus Bill, providing subsistence for reservists while making week-end cruises, and also permitting the confirmation of reservists in the lowest ratings in order that they may receive retainer pay for maintaining efficiency, upon enrollment in or transfer to a retainer pay class.

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The Bureau proposes to examine all confirmed Ensigns of Classes 1, a and 5 of the Naval Reserve Force during the following February for promotion to confirmed Lieutenant (jg), who have had four years' commissioned service as Ensign or higher and at least two months' sea service since first commission, in the Navy or Naval Reserve Force in the case of line officers of Classes 1 and 2, and a corresponding amount of active service in the case of Supply Officers and officers of Class 5. In addition, officers of Class 5, examined for promotion to Lieutenant (jg) confirmed, must have had at least 75 hours in the air.

The Bureau has purchased the following named feature motion pictures and will distribute them to the service as soon as received from the producers.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>STAR</u>
SANDRA	Lytell-La Marr
AS MAN DESIRES	Sills-Dana
FRIVOLOUS SAL	Eugene O'Brien
A THIEF IN PARADISE	Ronal Coleman
IF I MARRY AGAIN	Mayo-Nilsson
LEARNING TO LOVE	Constance Talmadge
SO BIG	Colleen Moore
IDLE TONGUES	Percy Marmont
LOVE'S WILDERNESS	Corrine Griffith
INEZ FROM HOLLYWOOD	Anna Q. Nilsson
HER NIGHT OF ROMANCE	Constance Talmadge
THE ROUGHNECK	George O'Brien
SO THIS IS MARRIAGE	Eleanor Boardman
THE DIXIE HANDICAP	Claire Windsor
THE EARLY BIRD	Johnny Hines
BATTLING BUNYAN	Wesley Barry
GERALD CRANSTON'S LADY	Alma Rubens and Jas. Kirkwood
LAST MAN ON EARTH	Derelys Perdue
HURRICANE KID	Hoot Gibson
SMOULDERING FIRES	Pauline Frederick
LET 'ER BUCK	Hoot Gibson
TENTH WOMAN	Beverly Bayne
FLATTERY	Jno. Bowers & M.de la Motte
BARRIERS BURNED AWAY	Frank Mayo - Wanda Hawley
MIDNIGHT EXPRESS	Elaine Hammerstein
GREATEST LOVE OF ALL	George Betan

Plans are being made by the Bureau for efficient film service to the U.S. Fleet of the latest pre release pictures during the Hawaiian and Australian Cruise.

The fifteen "Chronicles of America Photoplays" showing in an interesting and accurate manner historical events in the history of the United States have recently been purchased from Yale University and will be distributed for exhibition on ships and stations.

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Department Distribution

I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, (a, b, c).